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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

The History of Babylonia and Assyria. By HUGO WINCKLER, Ph.D., Professor in the University of Berlin. Translated and edited by JAMES ALEXANDER CRAIG, Ph.D., Professor of Semitic Languages and Literature in the University of Michigan. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1907. Pp. xii, 352.)

THE publication of this little work of Professor Winckler comes somewhat as a surprise at this time. It was first written as a contribution to Helmolt's *Weltgeschichte* and published therein in 1899. In very few of the historical sciences has so much water run under the mill as in Assyriology since that date. The demand of the hour would seem to be rather for a new book than for the retranslation of this old one. I have used the word retranslation advisedly, for this portion of Helmolt's big book has already appeared in an English translation in London (Heinemann) and in New York (Dodd, Mead and Company). Professor Craig has now translated it afresh into good vigorous English in a manner far superior to the former translation, and has added some useful and instructive notes. Professor Winckler has also contributed a few corrections and made some additions.

The volume is subdivided into three main divisions: Babylonia, Assyria, and the New Babylonian-Chaldean Kingdom. This method of treatment, while it involves some repetitions, has the advantage of maintaining a certain clearness of distinction between the two peoples, alike in some respects but so different in others, which cannot be easily secured if the strict chronological method be followed. At the conclusion of the first section of the book there is a most interesting and valuable Historical Retrospect and Outlook which discusses, with Winckler's well-known acumen, boldness and originality, the sources, lands, irrigation, the arts, religion and science, commerce, business and industry. At the conclusion of the second section there is a brilliant chapter on the civilization of Assyria. The book as a whole is fairly representative of Winckler's best manner; it is suggestive, full of interesting combinations and much less influenced by astrological theories than the learned author's later work.

When this has all been said it must reluctantly be confessed that it is disappointing. On many points it needs correction already, though it is fresh from the press. Some of these ought perhaps to have been met when the book was printing, and would doubtless have been if the

work had been written by the translator, who perhaps would scarcely feel free to make large changes without consulting the author. I may perhaps venture to point out a few places in which readers of the book would do well to introduce marginal corrections.

In the account of Sargon I. is this statement: "He records that in an expedition which lasted for three years he conquered regions beyond the sea. We do not know whether he here refers only to Cyprus, but the conquest would appear to have been more far reaching than that." It is now quite certain (King, *Chronicles concerning Early Babylonian Kings*, p. 36) that Sargon did not cross the sea of the West at all, but rather the sea of the East (Persian Gulf) and so did not reach Cyprus or any other far western point. The whole of chapter VIII. in the first section of the book is now superseded. In this chapter Winckler discusses the so-called second dynasty of Babylon which, as is now known, did not reign in Babylon at all but was contemporaneous with the first dynasty. This makes it necessary to reduce the first dynasty so that, for example, Hammurabi instead of being placed at 2267-2213 B. C. must now be set down at about 1950 B. C. This is a correction of considerable importance, and might have been introduced into the book. I have marked other minor matters which might call for comment in an extended notice. The book has indeed its uses, but I cannot but feel that Professor Craig, an able and accurate scholar, would have served better the aim that he had in view, if he had written an entirely new book over his own name.

ROBERT W. ROGERS.

Life in the Homeric Age. By THOMAS DAY SEYMOUR, Hillhouse Professor of the Greek Language and Literature in Yale University. (New York and London: The Macmillan Company. 1907. Pp. xvi, 704.)

FROM our long surfeit of Homeric theory it is a relief to turn to the simple facts of Homeric life. Here is what we may confidently hail as the best book on Homer in the English language; and yet its bibliography of a hundred titles does not include Wolf or Lachmann, Nitzsche or Fick. Questions of origin whether ethnological or literary are very properly waived; and the author seeks "to set forth with regard to Homeric antiquities simply what may be learned from the poems themselves, with such illustration as is obvious or naturally presented from other sources" At the same time, the author's own attitude toward these questions is defined at some length in the introduction. The spade of Schliemann and his successors having laid bare a sufficient historical basis for the Homeric story, "we may believe that Troy was sacked about 1200 B. C. by an expedition from Hellas under the leadership of the king of Mycenae—whatever may have been his name and the cause of the war. . . . That the names of Ilium and Dardanians are historical seems probable. Priam and Hector, too, may be real persons."